

2025 Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association Annual Conference



www.tnota.org



Platinum Sponsors

2025 TNOTA Conference





Gold Sponsors

2025 TNOTA Conference





Silver Sponsors

2025 TNOTA Conference





WILLIAM CAREY
UNIVERSITY

DEPARTMENT *of* OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

DEPARTMENT OF

**OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPY**

GOVERNORS STATE UNIVERSITY

Bronze Sponsors

2025 TNOTA Conference



Tennessee
State University

S.O.T.A

Student Occupational Therapy Association

**Student
Lounge
Sponsor**

2025 TNOTA Conference

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



Beyond Limits:

**Expanding OT's
Reach and Impact**

JACKSON, TN | SEPT 12-14



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Agenda

- About TNOTA
- New and updated programming
- TNOTA officers
- Upcoming election
- Membership & treasury report
- Committee reports
- Legislative report
- District reports
- Student board members
- Communities of Practice
- Tennessee Occupational Therapy Foundation
- Philanthropy work
- Updates and announcements
- Adjournment

www.tnota.org





Vision

TNOTA is the primary resource, authority, and public voice for the profession of Occupational Therapy in the state of Tennessee.

Mission

TNOTA strives to advance Occupational Therapy in Tennessee through education, advocacy, communication, and legislative involvement to support the provision of high-quality occupational therapy services and promote the benefits of our profession to consumers, stakeholders, and legislators in Tennessee.

TNOTA seeks to -

- Provide professional support to our members and advance the profession through communication, education, and advocacy
- Understand and represent member interests and concerns
- Improve the quality of occupational therapy services in TN
- Enhance consumer health and wellbeing through promotion of best practices in occupational therapy in Tennessee
- Represent occupational therapy to the public and promote the benefits of our profession to consumers, stakeholders, and legislators in Tennessee

www.tnota.org





Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Capstone Partnership Program

Keep an eye on TNOTA Communications
for **opportunities for OTD students
to partner with a TNOTA
leader for a Doctoral
Capstone Experience**



New and
Updated
Programming

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

TNOTA Recurring Continuing Education Courses

Check the TNOTA Events Calendar for information about:

Physical Agent Modalities (PAMs) Certification Training

Ethics & Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy

Suicide Prevention Training

Please contact admin@tnota.org with questions!



www.tnota.org

New and Updated Programming

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



**TNOTA is the 2025 recipient of
Affiliated State Association Presidents'
*Thinking Outside the Box Award***

New and
Updated
Programming

www.tnota.org



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

**provides opportunities for members to
gather participants for their research.**



TNOTA members can fill out a [TNOTA Member Research Request Form](#) to have research project information posted in the monthly newsletters and on the website.

 www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

SOUTHERN STATES OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ASSOCIATIONS' CONTINUING EDUCATION COLLABORATIVE

A partnership to expand opportunities for professional development and networking for OT practitioners and students across the state lines



Alabama



Georgia



Louisiana



Tennessee

TNOTA partners with a continuing education provider to offer opportunities for earning CE credit - free of charge for our members - to 62 pre-recorded courses plus addition member-only and student-only content.



New and
Updated
Programming

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

***THE OT LICENSURE COMPACT IN TENNESSEE:
WHAT STUDENTS AND PRACTITIONERS NEED TO KNOW***

A free webinar hosted by



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Date: Oct. 22, 2025

Time: 6 – 7 p.m. Central Time

Location: Virtual via Aspire OT



***Register at
tnota.org***



New and
Updated
Programming

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

TNOTA Board Members:

Elected Positions

Stephanie Lancaster,
EdD, OTR/L, ATP

President

Valery Hanks,
OTR/L, C/NDT,
CPAM

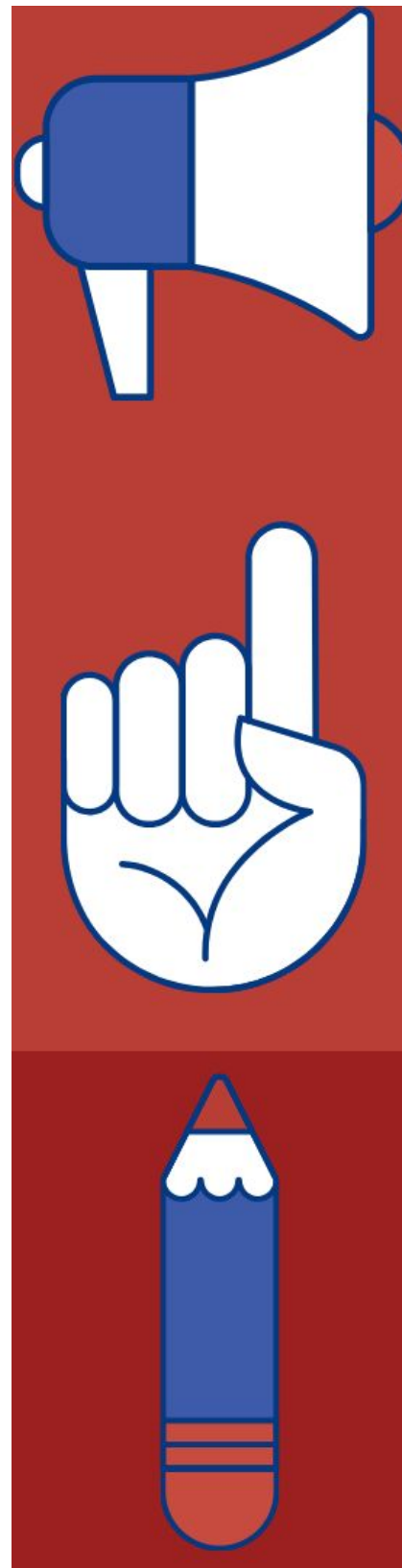
Vice President

Brandy McCarter,
COTA/L, CDCS, CFPS

Secretary

Christine Watt,
PhD, OTR/L

Treasurer



**TNOTA IS SEEKING
NOMINATIONS AND
APPLICATIONS FOR AN
OPEN BOARD POSITION**



Swipe for More Info!

Open position:

**Secretary
2 Year Term**

TNOTA
Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Upcoming Election

Secretary

- Term runs for two years (Jan. 2026 to Dec. 2027)
- Nominations open Oct. 15 through Nov. 15
- Voting by TNOTA members will occur Nov. 20 - Dec. 15, with the new term beginning on Jan. 1

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

OT Membership
\$80
OTA Membership
\$60

Value of TNOTA Membership

	Member Cost	Non-member Cost	Annual Savings
Conference Registration	\$325	\$400	\$75
Ethics & Jurisprudence (2 contact hours, required biannually)	FREE	\$20 x 2 = \$40	\$20
Suicide Prevention (2 contact hours, required every 4 yrs.)	FREE	\$20 x 2 = \$40	\$10
Continuing Education (virtual & in person + asynchronous via Aspire OT)	FREE	\$20/contact hour	Endless Value

Exclusive access
to Member Portal
on the website

Advocacy to protect
our professional
interests

Engagement in
Communities of
Practice

Voting (and running)
in TNOTA elections

Participation in
Mentorship
program

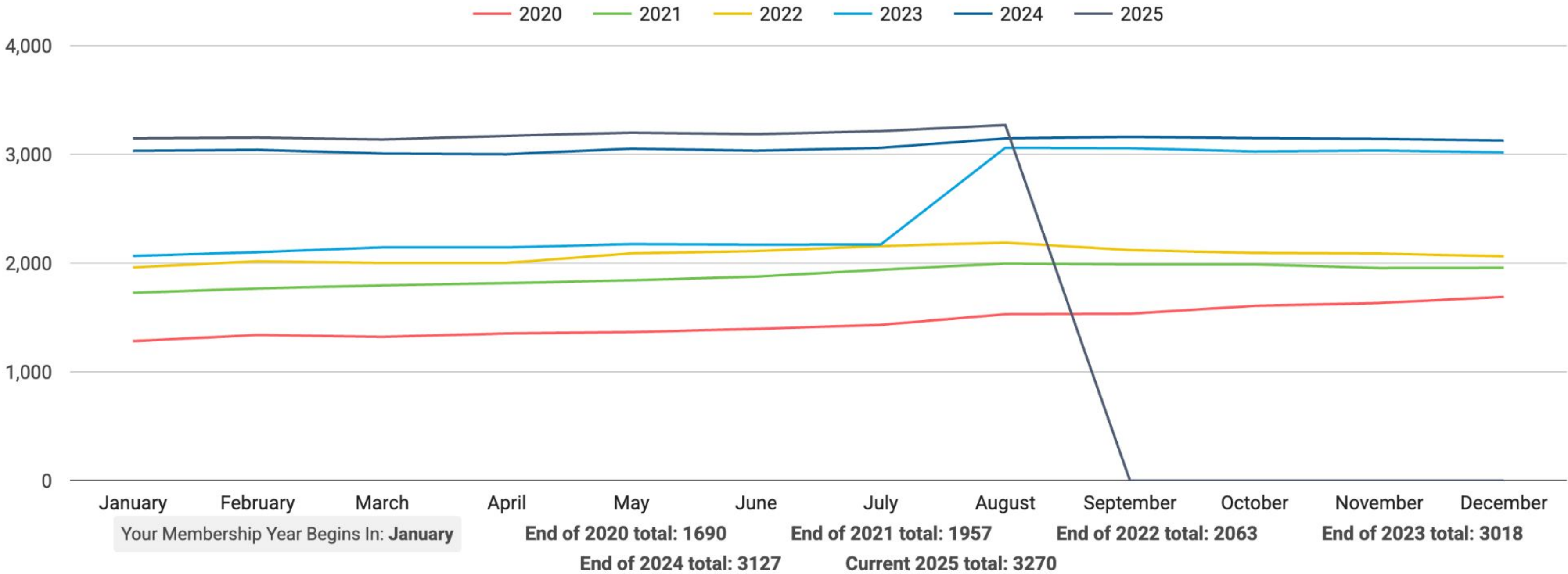
Access to TNOTA
leadership & staff via
email and phone

Membership Report

9/1/2024 - 8/31/2025
(compared to 2022-2023)

1st Yr. OT	34 (+9)
OT	392 (+30)
1st Yr. OTA	11 (+7)
OTA	81 (-)
Retired	2 (-)
Student	333 (-20)
Total members	873 (+34)
Total audience	3,203 (+107)

Five-Year Total Membership Trend



2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

Five-Year Total Membership Trend (9/1/20 - 8/31/25)

Member Type	Active at Start	Joined	Renewed	Lapsed	Rejoined	Graced	Added to MT	Removed From MT	Deleted	Restored	Active at End	Net Change
TOTALS	1453	1775	2396 (165%)	2409	593	3008	5604	3094	283	2	3203	+1750
Prospect	820	392	0	26	0	0	3387	1857	11	0	2330	+1510
1st Year OT	38	57	116 (305%)	116	35	127	186	163	19	0	34	-4
1st Year OTA	21	20	29 (138%)	47	8	57	57	62	12	0	11	-10
Admin	5	0	0	1	1	5	3	1	0	0	7	+2
Organizational Partner	0	9	13	0	1	0	15	2	0	0	13	+13
OT	185	469	1126 (609%)	811	246	1063	736	284	63	0	392	+207
OTA	80	120	260 (325%)	310	101	374	225	156	38	0	81	+1
Retired	4	2	8 (200%)	6	2	8	7	6	0	0	2	-2
Student	300	706	844 (281%)	1092	199	1374	988	563	140	2	333	+33

The key number to focus on is in the final column: A net gain of over 1,750 individuals in our TNOTA community since 2020.



Membership Report – Key Takeaways

1. In general, year over year growth is steady, with a **slight to moderate increase especially in the months leading up to the Annual Conference.**
2. **OTs** and **students** are the largest membership categories, suggesting there may be room for growth with **OTA-specific** content and opportunities.
3. As we continue to seek to understand what moves someone from “**Prospect**” to **TNOTA member**, reflections on what TNOTA experiences are most valuable are crucial.

Financial Report



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

Account Snapshot

	2024	YTD 2025
Checking Account	\$187,256.08	\$211,313.96
Money Marketing Account	\$combined	\$combined
Total Assets	\$187,256.08	\$211,313.96



9/1/24 - 8/31/25 Revenue

Conference	\$22,059.05
Advertisements & Sponsorships	\$756.00
Continuing Education	\$15,712.82
Membership Dues	\$53,733.95



9/1/24 - 8/31/25 Expenses

	Budgeted	Reported Period	Variance
Annual Conference	\$17,100	9,406.36	55.3%
Continuing Education (primarily speaker fees)	17,000	9,786.50	57.6%
Miscellaneous (insurance, bank fees, etc.)	4,650	3,873.59	88.3%
Operations & Activities	4,000	4,448.72	111.2%
Legal and Professional Fees	43,500	44,174.30	101.5%
Operating Expenses	9,690	9260.00	95.5%
Board Meetings & Travel	7,550	6,442.12	85.3%



August 2025 Financial Report

Income	\$15,503.30
Expenses	\$8,849.33
Highest Income Item	\$9,898.30 (conference)
Highest Expense Item	\$4,875.00 (pro. fees)

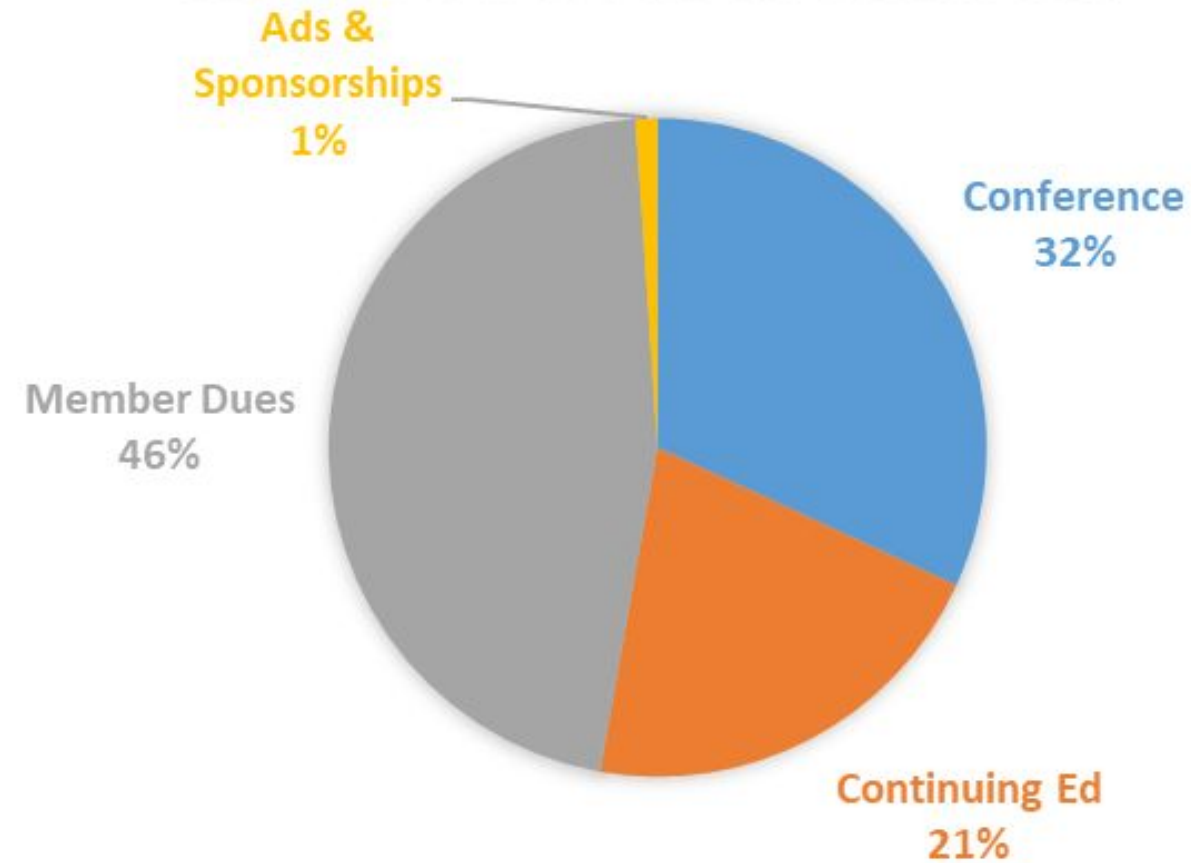


Net Income:
\$6,653.97

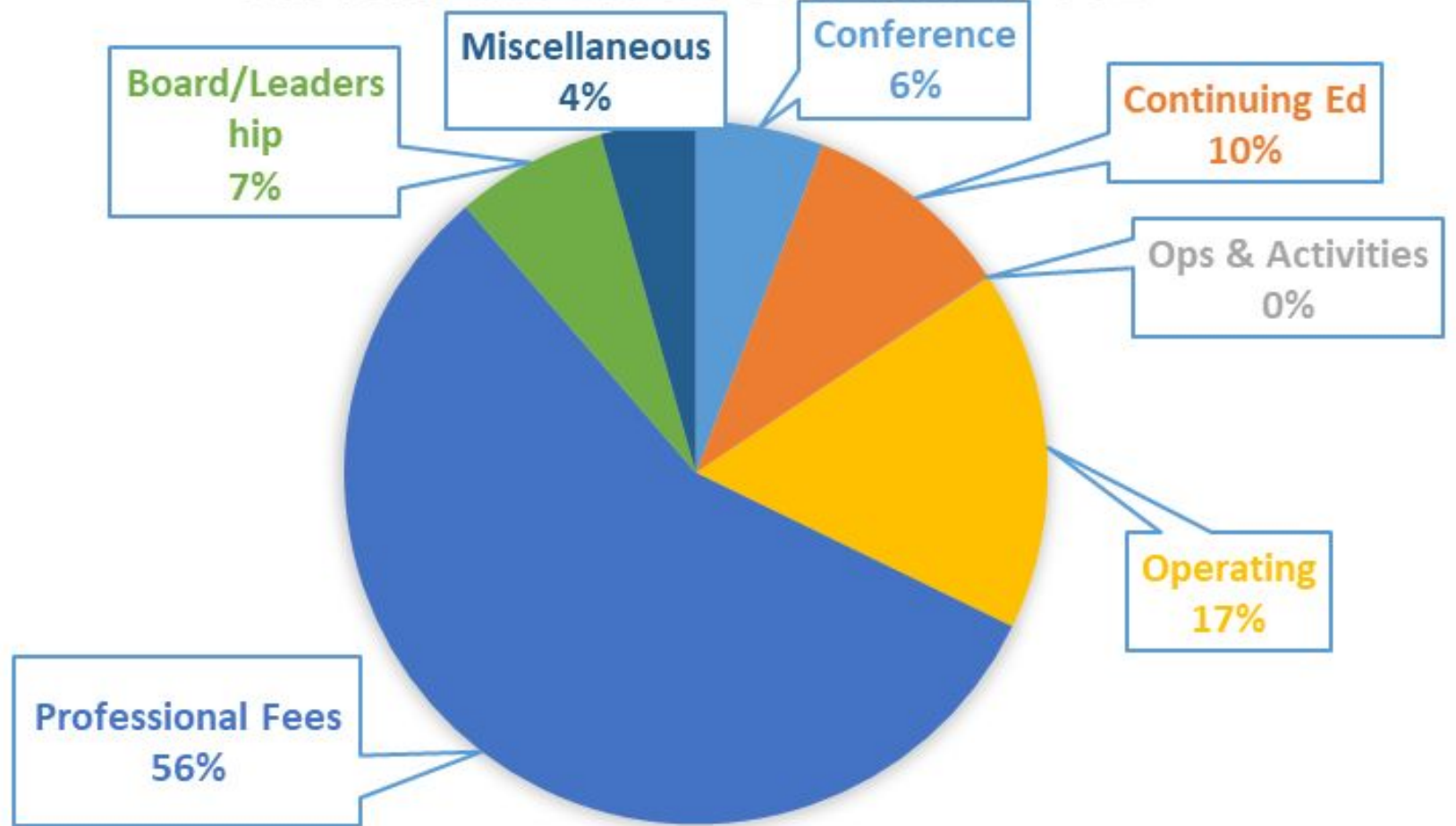
YTD Income:
\$19,388.33

Aug. 2025 Financial Report

DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME YTD



DISTRIBUTION OF EXPENSES YTD





Student Involvement Committee

Committee Chair: Taylor Kozell, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS, CNS-AP, PAq

Priorities

- Convene OT practitioners and OT/OTA students who work together to advocate for, support, and facilitate the success of students through a variety of initiatives, programs, & presentations designed specifically to assist in the growth of OT practitioners
- Increasing student membership in the TNOTA

Annual Accomplishments

- Quarterly meetings (via Zoom)
- One year of free membership in TNOTA for elected student representatives from each school program
- Hosted the Student Lounge at Annual Conference (sponsored by Tennessee State)
- Received the ASAP's "Thinking Outside the Box" award at AOTA Conf.



Email: students@tnota.org

2025 TNOTA Student Video Contest Winner: UTHSC



OTA Connect Committee

Committee Chair: Ashley Robertson, COTA/L

Priorities

- Provides a supportive and collaborative connection point for current and future OTAs
- Disseminate information on topics including regulations for supervision, development of the OT and OTA relationships, and best practices in the field for Occupational Therapy Assistants
- Improve OT/OTA collaboration at the educational level

Annual Accomplishments

- Collaboration as a committee to form a resource guide for educational practitioners and educational programs on OT/OTA relationships



Email: otaconnect@tnota.org

www.tnota.org



Mental Health Committee

Committee Chair: Katy Schmidt, OTD, OTR/L

Priorities

- Suicide prevention training and other educational courses
- Support for mental health OT practitioners
- Advocacy for OT's role in mental health treatment

Annual Accomplishments

- Expanded suicide prevention training
 - Created new suicide prevention curriculum specific for OTPs
 - Launched bimonthly schedule for suicide prevention training
 - Provided 7 suicide prevention training courses
 - Developed a team of 4 volunteer suicide prevention trainers
- Provided continuing education courses
 - Substance use disorder course (hosted by West District)
 - Dialectical behavior therapy course (hosted by Northeast District)
- Connected Mental Health Community of Practice members to resources and mentorship
- Supported TNOTA legislative advocacy related to OTPs' ability to address firearms access for clients at risk of suicide (with the TNOTA Advocacy Committee)
- Prepared to have a Belmont University capstone student start in January 2026

www.tnota.org



Mentorship Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: David D. Eades, PPOTD, OTR/L, and Alison M. Stewart, OTD, OTR/L, ATP

Priorities

- Revitalizing program, next cycle to begin August 2026
- Continue work with TN Board of OT for CE credits given to mentees and practitioners mentoring students
- Continue to increase participation and expand mentorship across TN
- Explore research opportunities

Annual Accomplishments

- Expanded to a 10-month program, now focused on licensed OTPs
- Advocacy for CE credit for mentorship in the TN OT Practice Act
- Added pairing rubrics
- Added required lesson plans and rubrics for reviewing/providing feedback on the lesson plans
- 2 CE events in 2025 (one complete, one upcoming in October)

www.tnota.org



Email: mentorship@tnota.org



TNOTA Mentorship Program



**For more information regarding
the program requirements,
timeline, benefits, and FAQs,
scan the QR code!**



www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

Diversity & Inclusion Committee

Committee Chair: Stedmon Hopkins

Priorities

- Host a minimum of two DEI specific CE events per year
- Develop and disseminate resource tools and guides on the TNOTA Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) website
- Increase committee membership including student members. We represent all areas of diversity, and all are welcome

Annual Accomplishments

- One Completed CE event and one planned
 - The National Black Occupational Therapy Caucus: A conversation with Dr. Nardia Aldridge May 2024
 - Beyond Accessibility: Confronting Healthcare Barriers Faced by People with disabilities - Date TBD
- Initial set of resources gathered for D&I page on the TNOTA website
- Created a survey to assess TNOTA's support of diverse practitioners and their advocacy for diverse clients



Email: diversity@tnota.org

Continuing Education Committee

Committee Chair: Audrey Owens

Priorities

- Approved CE Course Program (formerly Approved Provider Program)
- Program to review continuing education courses for approval with TNOTA
- Committee members review course, and if approved, it can be advertised as approved by TNOTA
- 1-2 courses approved per month
- Once approved, approval lasts for one year and is listed on the TNOTA website

Annual Accomplishments

- Approved CE Course Program
 - We reviewed and approved 9 courses in 2024
 - We have reviewed and approved 10 courses so far in 2025 with 2 currently under review

www.tnota.org



Email: continuinged@tnota.org



Advocacy Committee

Committee Chair: Rosemary Lewis

Priorities

- October Advocacy CE event
- TNOTA Hill Day 2025
- Advocacy table with letter-writing campaign at conference
- Committee expansion

Annual Accomplishments

- Facilitate and support state-level professional advocacy
 - This includes professional visibility, advancement, and promotion.
- Collaboration with our lobbyist and legislative representative to monitor legislation impacting OT practice on a state and federal level

Email: advocacy@tnota.org

Advocacy Goals

- Plan an annual CE event in October
- Hill Day 2026 - the date is set for March 4, 2026!
- Organize school & community outreach to advocate for the profession of occupational therapy
- Advocacy for non-traditional OT settings
- Development of advocacy resources



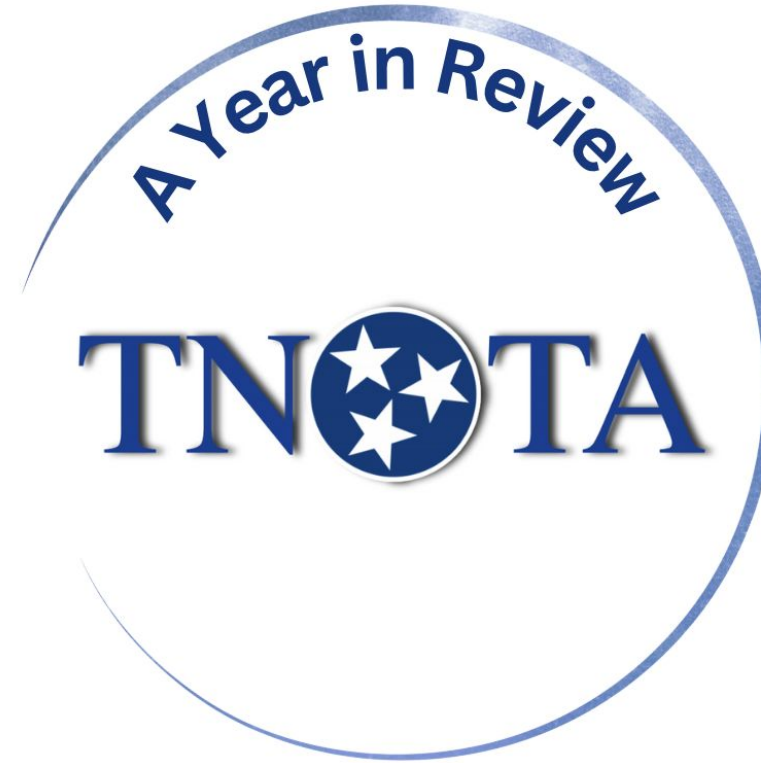
**SCAN HERE
FOR TNOTA
ADVOCACY
RESOURCES!**



CAPITOL & 5TH
PUBLIC STRATEGIES

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



Legislative Report



CAPITOL & 5TH
PUBLIC STRATEGIES

Courtney Atnip, Founding Partner

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

OBBBA- passed July 2025. Major Impacts to OT:

- [AOTA course](#)- excellent overview- FREE
- Medicaid: ~12 million predicted to lose eligibility, increased administrative burden in Medicaid expansion states
 - mandatory work requirements in medicaid expansion states (not TN)
 - increased cost sharing (individual costs)
 - limits what lawfully present immigrants may qualify
 - decreased FMAP (federal matching % for medicaid)--> fewer people accessing OT via medicaid and ACA marketplace
 - ACA premiums may increase or commercial insurance reimbursement may decrease
 - decreased payments to hospitals and SNFs with high medicaid populations may result in closures

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

OBBBA- (cont'd)

- Financial Aid for higher ed-
 - subsidized loans eliminated, Grad PLUS loans eliminated→ can discourage future OTPs from enrolling in grad programs
 - no change to PSLF or Pell grants (**WIN**)
- No tax on overtime- some hourly OTPs may qualify for year-end tax relief
- Medicare part B- one-year increase (2.5%) included in the bill- **WIN**
- State level- AOTA working with states + PT/SLP coalitions to develop resources and advocate against cuts to OT medicaid coverage and reimbursement rate

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

- [Department of Ed changes](#)-
 - future unclear, heavier state/local influence
 - OTPs need to advocate for their role in supporting educational outcomes!
- [Medicare part B](#) & [Home Health](#) payment cuts
 - working to advocate to protect Ot & fight against reimbursement cuts
- [OT Licensure Compact](#)- AOTA & States are working with the compact commission to initiate roll out
 - coming soon to a state near you
- [OT Mental Health Parity Act](#)- Medicare access to OT for MH and substance abuse issues
- Continuing to fight against OTA payment differential (eff. 1/2022) and further cuts

Federal Legislation Update: Issues Being Followed by AOTA's Federal Affairs Department

TNOTA Legislative Chair: Cindy Blackwell, OTD, OTR/L

AOTA Advocacy Resources

- [AOTA Legislative Action Center](#)
- [Everyday Advocacy Decision Guide](#) - ways to prepare for everyday conversations to advocate for the profession
- Resource: [7 ways to be an OT Advocate](#)

Legislative Chair: Special Thanks

Special thanks to TNOTA's longtime Legislative Chair, Dr. Susan McDonald, who served the role (among many others) well for several years.





2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

HALL OF FAME



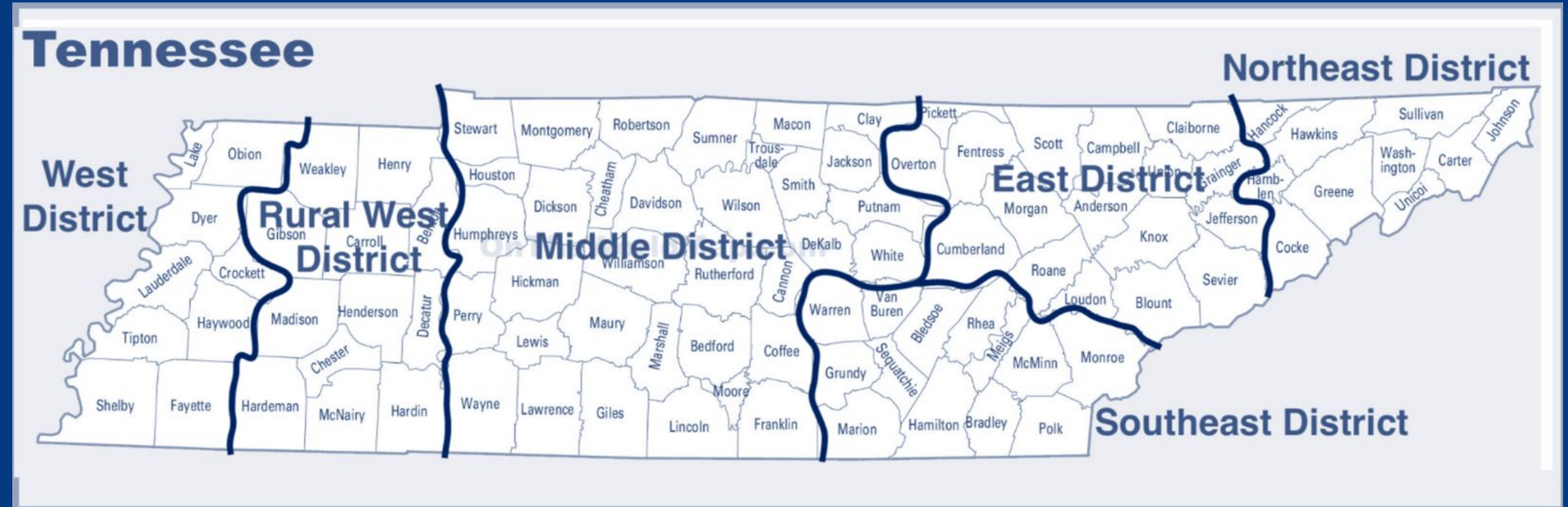
Susan S. McDonald, EdD, OTR/L

*2025 Inductee
(Posthumous)*



www.tnota.org

District Leadership



West District

Anne Zachry &
Mary Dreyer Smith
(Co-chairs)

Rural West District

Barbara Meussner
(Chair)
Kaylie Garner
(Vice chair)
Nicole Ayers
(Secretary)
Sandy Dicks
(Treasurer)

Middle District

Gigi Jordan
(Chair)
David D. Eades
(Vice Chair)
Alyssa Campbell
(Secretary)

East District

Robert Mullaney
(Chair)
Richard
Leger-Walker
(Vice Chair)
Julia Johnson
(Secretary)

Northeast District

Kimberly Jessee &
Jennifer Crowder
(Co-chairs)
Kim Masker
(Secretary)

Southeast District

Martin Davis
&
Bhumika Patel
(Co-Chairs)

TNOTA West District

District Leadership

- Anne Zachry, PhD, OTR/L (Co-chair)
- Mary Dreyer Smith, OTS (Co-chair)

Priorities

- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapists and occupational therapy students.
- Coordinate education events.

Annual Accomplishments

- 4 CE events this year:
 - December 3rd, 2024: **Ethics and Jurisprudence in Occupational Therapy** (live webinar, presented by Dr. Stephanie Lancaster) -
 - February 4, 2025: **Below the Belt: What is Pelvic Health Therapy** (live webinar presented by Sara Lynn Johnson Fultz)
 - May 6, 2025: **Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment: How every OT practitioner can address substance use disorder** (live webinar presented by Katy Schmidt)
 - August 26, 2025: **Expanding Horizons: Integrating Accessible Travel & OT Practice** (live webinar presented by Dr. Karen C. Dwire and Dawn Araujo)

www.tnota.org



TNOTA Rural West District

District Leadership

- Barbara Meussner (Chair)
- Kaylie Garner (Vice chair)
- Nicole Ayers (Secretary)
- Sandy Dicks (Treasurer)

Priorities

- Advocate for legislation supporting occupational therapy and client access.
- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapists.
- Coordinate education events and collaborate with healthcare organizations.
- Support students and early-career practitioners through mentorship.

Annual Accomplishments

- Held 5th annual compliance day during first Saturday in November
- Hosted PAMs course
- Maintained fully staffed local team with new members
- Local CE Events:
 - A Primitive Look at Reflexes II (Presented by Sandra Dicks, OTR/L)
 - Maximizing Bimanual Outcome in Infants and Children with Hemiparesis: Setting the Foundation (Presented by Gina Lee, OTR/L)
 - Participated in Union University MakeAble Challenge
 - Held quarterly team meeting for planning



TNOTA Middle District

District Leadership

- Gigi Jordan, OTD, OTR/L (Chair)
- David Eades, PPOTD, OTR/L, CPAM (Vice Chair)
- Alyssa Campbell, OTR/L (Secretary)

Priorities

- Continue to foster a student community of support for occupational therapy students in the greater Nashville area
- Coordinate 1 community volunteer event for Middle District members

Annual Accomplishments

- Hosted an student networking event for Nashville occupational therapy students and had an incredible turnout!
- CE event: Tips & Tools: New and Updated Pediatric Assessments
- CE event (in Dec): Grant Writing in Occupational Therapy: Turning Ideas into Funded Initiatives

www.tnota.org



TNOTA East District

District Leadership

- Robert J. Mullaney (Chair)
- Rich Leger-Walker (Vice Chair)
- Julia Johnson (Secretary)

Priorities

- Advocate for greater East TN District membership and involvement
- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapy practitioners and students in the district
- Facilitate desired education events and collaborate with OT and OTA schools and other organizations in the East TN District
- Support students and early-career practitioners through mentorship
- Coordinate 1 service-related community event by East TN District Members

Annual Accomplishments

- Survey TNOTA East District members on educational and event needs for 2024-2025
- **East TN District Monthly Communication** to launch in October 2025 to enhance communications, awareness, and involvement

www.tnota.org



TNOTA Northeast District

District Leadership

- Kimberly Jessee, OTD, MS, OTR (Co-Chair)
- Jennifer Susong Crowder DSc, OTR (Co-Chair)
- Kimberly Masker, OTD, OTR/L, CHT (Secretary)

Priorities

Create positive connections for district OT practitioners and students to facilitate increased engagement

Annual Accomplishments

- District Strategic Planning Meeting & Survey of Participants CE Requests
- CE: Interview & Resume Building with Local Practitioner Q&A to connect students and local practitioners
- CE: Breaking OT Barriers: Disability Mentorship
- CE: Introduction to Dialectical Behavior Therapy for Occupational Therapy Practitioners
- Upcoming: OT Compliance Day (Suicide Prevention & E&J) - Nov. 8th at HVMC

www.tnota.org



TNOTA Southeast District

District Leadership

- Martin Davis, MS, OTR/L, CSRS (Co-Chair)
- Bhumika Patel, MS, OTR/L (Co-Chair)

Priorities

- Advocate for Southeast TN District Membership, Engagement, and Education.
- Facilitate networking and professional development for occupational therapists, assistants, and students.
- Facilitate desired education events for the Southeast District.
- Collaborate with OT schools and other organizations in the Southeast TN District.
- Increase district leadership involvement for open positions (Secretary & Treasurer)

Annual Accomplishments

- Participated in the UTC Graduate school Health Professional job fair
- CE events this year
 - The OT Compact: Progress and Vision, presented by: Chuck Willmarth, CAE, Ex Officio AOTA
 - Occupational Therapy and Aging in Place: Review of Evidence and Up-to-Date Trends, presented by: Alex Laghezza, PhD, OTR/L
 - District hosting PAMs Course in early October (Chattanooga)



TNOTA Student Board Members

Each OT and OTA program in the state is eligible to select a current student to serve on the board.

- Belmont University - Anna Stogner
- East Tennessee State - Maggie Davidson
- Lincoln Memorial - Molly Boothroyd
- Milligan University - Reagan Turner
- Nashville State Community College - CJ Johnson
- Roane State - Madilen Cary
- South College-Nashville - Macy Frank
- Tennessee State University - Abby Wright
- Tennessee Wesleyan - Jennie Douglas
- Univ. of TN-Chattanooga - Cameron Jean
- Univ. of TN Health Sci. Ctr. - Abby Peacock
- Walters State - Abilene Hurd



Communities of Practice

Pediatric CoP

Facilitator:

Cindy Blackwell
cderuit2@gmail.com

Mental Health CoP

Facilitator:

Katy Schmidt
katy.schmidt@belmont.edu

Hand Therapy CoP

Facilitator:

Peggy Haase
Peggy.Haase@vumc.org

Aquatic Therapy CoP

Facilitator:

Taylor Kozell
Taylor-kozell@utc.edu

Tennessee Occupational Therapy Foundation (TNOTF)

The foundation is a non-profit organization established in 2019.

Its mission is to support OT & OTA students through the awarding of scholarships and the community through volunteer services.



Tennessee
Occupational Therapy Foundation

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER



September 13, 2025

7:00–9:00 PM Central Time

At the DoubleTree Hotel in Jackson

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

TNOTF Recognition: Scholarships

Hannah Dougherty

ETSU OTD % 2026

- Served as SOTA secretary
- Selected for the 2025 AOTA Institute for Future Scientists in OT
- Served as a graduate research assistant
- Recipient of the ETSU OTD Class of 2026 Academic Excellence Award
- Research poster presentation at 2025 TNOTA conference
- Certifications/special trainings including: first aid, BLS, ETSU HIPAA and OSHA training, and Interprofessional Education (IPE) Program,

**2025 TNOTF Student Scholarship:
\$1000**

Brittany Ford

UTC OTD % 2026

- Served as the TNOTA student representative
- Work experience as a rehab tech and graduate assistant
- Research poster presentation at 2025 TNOTA conference
- Certifications including: first aid, BLS, Biomedical Research Investigator, TCPS FERPA & Confidentiality, SSRS & QPR Suicide Prevention, BINGOcize Facilitator

**2025 TNOTF Student Scholarship,
\$1000**

Clara McLemore

UTHSC MOT % 2026

- Serving as SOTA social activities/public relations chairperson
- Member of the UTHSC COTAD Chapter
- Member of the Rachel K. Stevens Pro Bono Student Clinic
- Awards: Harvey M. Craft Award, Dorothy Burdeshaw Scholarship Recipient, Presidential Award and List

**2025 TNOTF Student Scholarship,
\$500**

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

Opportunity for TNOTF Scholarship Award

OT2 Scholarship

This scholarship application
will be posted on the TNOTA
website following conference.
All OT students pursuing OT as
a second career are
encouraged to apply.

www.tnota.org



TNOTF Recognition

Excellent Educator

It is with great pride that
we recognize this year's
Excellent Educator

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

TNOTA Philanthropy Partnership

2025 TNOTA PHILANTHROPY
PARTNER

BRIGHTSTONE



BrightStone expands the potential of adults with special needs by providing opportunities and solutions that enrich their lives.

Recent philanthropy partners:

- Gigi's Playhouse
- TSU Tiger Rehab Clinic
- UTHSC Rachel Kay Stevens Therapy Center
- Special Olympics Tennessee
- Parkinson's Foundation - Tennessee Chapter

TNOTA Philanthropy Partnership



Professional Headshots at the Annual Conference

Fundraiser for BrightStone, TNOTA's 2025
Philanthropy Partner!

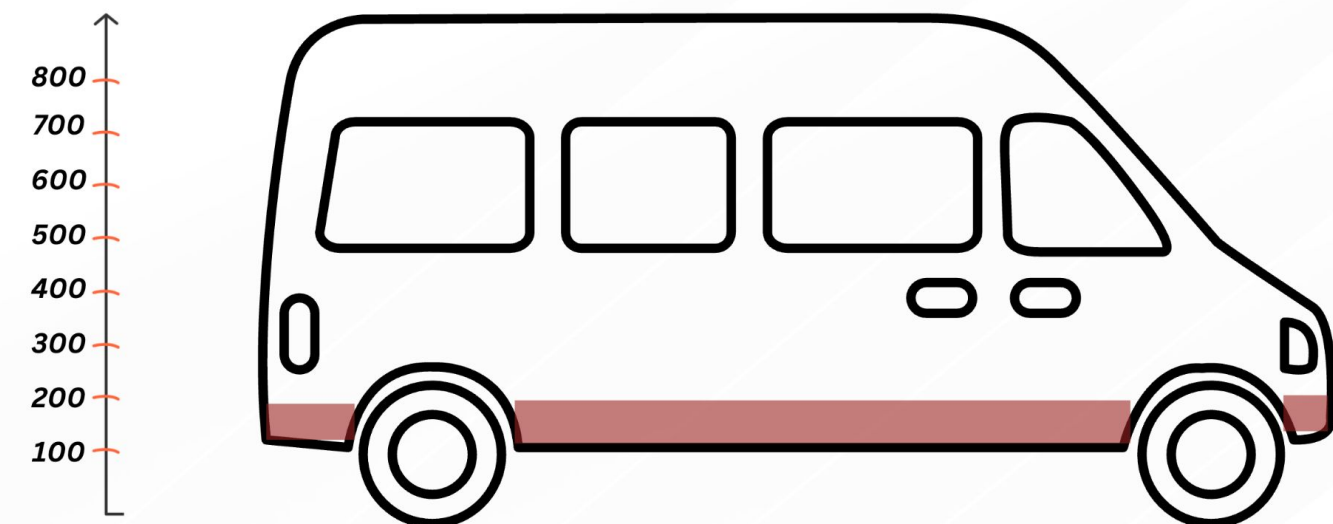


\$10 Students

\$15 OT
Practitioners

Fundraising Competition for SOTA Groups and OT/OTA Programs in TN

TNOTA Philanthropy Partner Donation Tracker



2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



Nominations open Oct. 15!

TNOTA members are invited to nominate a non-profit group in the state for the 2026 philanthropy partnership!

Priority will go to organizations whose work impacts Tennessee and is related to occupational therapy as well as the mission and vision of TNOTA.



Nominations will be accepted through the TNOTA website through Nov. 15, with voting by the association's membership from Nov. 20 - Dec. 15.

TNOTA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



TNOTA is searching for additional volunteers to join our leadership team. Commitment times vary but are usually no more than a few hours per month. Training and mentorship will be provided as needed. Volunteers earn CE credit for their work with TNOTA.

VOLUNTEER TODAY!

Open positions:

- Advocacy Committee members
- Southeast District leadership team (Vice Chair and Secretary)
- Diversity and Inclusion Committee members

Email president@tnota.org if interested!

Get involved
with TNOTA!

www.tnota.org

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

◆ Website Redesign ◆



Same mission. Better experience.

New member-only area



www.tnota.org



SPECIAL RECOGNITIONS



First-time conference
attendees

Beyond Limits:

Expanding OT's
Reach and Impact

JACKSON, TN | SEPT 12-14

First-time conference
attendees



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association



FALL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Sept. 12 - Oct. 27, 2025

Starting conference weekend, anyone joining or renewing membership in TNOTA will be eligible to choose one of two special offers:

\$10 DISCOUNT ON ANNUAL DUES

or

AN ADDITIONAL 3 MONTHS OF MEMBERSHIP

MORE INFO >>

<https://tinyurl.com/tnota-member-drive>

2025 TNOTA CONFERENCE

SAVE THE DATE

2026



Tennessee Occupational Therapy Association

Annual Conference

Sept. 19-20

Scarritt Bennett Center

Nashville, TN

www.tnota.org

Scan the code below for CE credit for this session.

